THE

Theatrical Observer:

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 554 Tuesday, Sept. 2, 1823. Price 1d.

HAY-MARKET.

The comic piece of *Matrimony*, again afforded Mr. Vining and Mrs. Chatterley an opportunity of gaining much approbation, as *Delaval* and *Clara*. In *Sweethearts and Wives*, Miss Paton acted the part of *Laura*, with particular success, and her songs were executed with that peculiar taste and brilliancy for which she is so highly distinguished. We mentioned yesterday her intention of going to the country. Miss Love, we see is now happily restored, and re-assumes her character in this operatic piece. *Fish out of Water* went off as well as ever.

ENGLISH OPERA HOUSE.

Mrs. Centlivre has been taken great liberties with by the Manager of this Theatre. Two of her five-act pieces have been cut down to two-act farces, with an operatic arrangement. Much of her wit is lost, but her bustle and characters are in a great measure retained. We have before mentioned "*Too Curious by Half*," taken from her *Busy Body*, which *taking* we think rather an *idle* job, and think the gentleman who on this occasion wielded the scissors, had better have used his pen in something *original*. As to the other piece of curtailed comedy, *The Guardians Outwitted*, (as the *Bold Stroke for a Wife* has been now christened,) it was produced last night in order to exhibit Mr. Mathews in the part of *Colonel Fainwell*, in which we remember seeing him many years ago much to our amusement. Every one knows that the plot of *A Bold Stroke for a Wife* is simply, that a *Colonel Fainwell* is in love with a *Miss Ann Lovely*, who has no less than *four* Guardians of different character. One being a Quaker, one a Man of Fashion, another a Broker, and the last, one of the silly species of Cognoscenti. The *bold* Colonel, finding each of these worthies determined to give Ann's hand to only such a man as accords with his own peculiar way of thinking, resolves to trick them all into a consent to his union, by personating a series of characters suitable to their respective tastes. Accordingly, he first gains the approbation and admiration of the old beau, by his French air, under the denomination of *La Fainwell*—next he deceives the Broker as a Dutch Merchant, and by a bold stroke in the stocks gets the old speculator to transfer to him the hand of Miss Lovely. Then, as *Pillage*, a crazy old Steward, he tells a cock-and-a-bull story to *Perriwinkle*, the learned, and makes him sign a lease of Ann Lovely's beautiful person,

whilst he thinks he is signing a lease of a farm at £100. a year. These several characters Mr. MATHEWS filled with very humorous effect. The *Dutchman* and *old Pillage*, were the best of his personations. The latter, in particular, was as admirably acted as any thing we ever saw of this gentleman's performance. The weight of years hung on his form, and his voice piped and trebled, and his hand shook, and his tongue was garrulous, and his step uncertain and feeble. The pertinacty of age was marked by redundancies and repetitions of word and action; and the world-clinging remembrance of self-interest, was exhibited by tremulous anxiety to secure the renewed tenure of twenty years, when nature rendered it more probable that the time-worn being would only possess as much earth as could cover his shattered frame. Mr. Mathews gave to this picture of the last stage of existence, a perfection of representation which cannot be too highly praised. His ancient song, too, was good; but his song in the quaker character was the best, and produced an encore. He played the Quaker with less *starch* than we usually see on the Stage—we suspect his style is a copy from nature. The erect posture, the top-boots, and the hands in the breeches pockets, indicated the travelling Quaker of business, just arrived on matters connected with his religion and his tobaccoes. Miss KELLY represented *Ann Lovely*, and although she has little to do, she does that little excellently.—Her Quaker song was comic. The other characters were in general well sustained. The piece was well received.

Too Curious by Half followed, and *Monsieur Tonson* concluded the entertainments very agreeably, to an excellent house.

NEW SURREY THEATRE.—This Theatre produced, last night, (as the bills informed us,) a new and original romantic melo-drama called "*Humgumtion; or, Dr. Frankenstein, and the Hobgoblin of Hoxton.*" We had buoyed our expectation not a little high, nor were we disappointed; 'tis one broad laugh from the commencement to the finish, and it was extremely well acted. BURROUGHS and SMITH were highly amusing, and warmly applauded. A Miss TUNSTALL made her first appearance on these boards, and sang the songs allotted her, with a sweetness of voice, modulation, and feeling, that obtained her universal approbation. She was loudly encored in her second song.—This young lady promises to become a decided favorite.—We noticed some little inaccuracy or want of attention in the shifting of the scenes, this should be looked to; by such neglect the effect of a good scene is totally lost. A strict attention to this department is most essential. Among many others in the private boxes, we noticed the Earl of Fife and family, General Fitzroy and family, Lady Hammond, General Bligh, Hon. Fitzroy Staniforth, &c. &c. "*The Foulahs,*" retains its attraction, and the curtain fell amidst the plaudits of an elegant and crowded house.—The scenery, which is new, was very pretty.

Printed by R. THOMAS, *Denmark Court, Exeter Change, Strand.*

Theatre Royal, Hay-Market.

This Evening, the Comic Sketch in 1 Act, call'd

MATCH-MAKING.

Mr. Matchem, Mr TERRY,
Colonel Rakeley, Mr VINING,
Shuffle, Mr HARLEY,
Captain Belmont, Mr JOHNSON,
Servant, Mr C. JONES,
Lady Emily, Mrs CHATTERLEY,

After which, the Operatic Comedy of

Sweethearts & Wives

With New Music, Scenes, and Dresses.

The Music by Messrs. Whitaker, Nathan, T. Cooke, & Perry

Admiral Franklin, Mr. TERRY,
Charles Franklin, Mr. VINING,
Sandford, Mr DAVIS, Curtis, Mr WILLIAMS,
Billy Lackaday, Mr. LISTON,
Laura, Miss LOVE,
Eugenia, Miss CHESTER, Susan, Mrs GARRICK,
Mrs. Bell, Mrs C. JONES,

To conclude with (7th time) a Farce, in 2 Acts, with Songs, called

"Fish out of Water."

The Music composed by Mr PERRY.

Sam Savoury, Mr LISTON,
Steward, Mr WILLIAMS, Footman, Mr Wynne,
Sir George Courtley, Mr POPE,
Alderman Gayfare, Mr YOUNGER,
Charles Gayfare, Mr VINING,
Ellen Courtley, Mrs ORGER, Lucy, Mrs C JONES.

To-morrow, Sweethearts & Wives, with Fish out of Water.

Theatre Royal English Opera House.

This Evening, (2nd time) an Operatic Arrangement of the Comedy of Mrs Centlivre, entitled The

Guardians Outwitted;

Or, A BOLD STROKE FOR A WIFE.

Col. Fainwell, and the assumed Characters of.....
La Fainwell, (a Fop).....
Van Jan Timtamterclareletta Heer Fainwell, (a Dutchman).....
Pillage, (a Steward).....
And *Simon Pure, (a Quaker)*.....
} MR. MATHEWS.

Sir Philip Modelove, Mr J. KNIGHT,
Perriwinkle, Mr W. BENNETT,
Simon Pure, Mr BAKER, Zachariah, Mr MINTON
Tradelove, Mr ROWBOTHAM,
Mr Freeman, Mr BLAND, Sackbut, Mr SALTER,
Obadiah Prim, Mr BARTLEY,
Ann Lovely, Miss KELLY,
Mrs Prim, Mrs GROVE, Betty, Mrs BRYAN,

After which, (5th time) an Operatic Entertainment, called,

Too Curious by Half.

Don Diego di Montilla, Mr W. BENNETT,
Don Lopez di Montilla, Mr J. KNIGHT, Charles Gripe, Mr BAKER
Col. Ravelin, Mr J. BLAND, Marplot, Mr WRENCH,
Tom, Mr R. PHILLIPS, Robert, Mr SAUNDERS,
Corregidor, Mr SHERIFF, Vasquez, Mr H. PHILLIPS,
Donna Theresa, Mrs AUSTIN, Donna Aurora, Mrs GROVE,
Isidora, Miss CARR, Isabinda, Miss HOLDAWAY,
Margaritta, Mrs J. WEIPPERT,

To conclude with the Comic Entertainment, with extra Songs, called

THE BEE-HIVE.

Mingle, Mr MATHEWS,
Captain Merton, Mr WRENCH, Joe, Mr MINTON,
Captain Rattan, Mr W. CHAPMAN,
Mrs Mingle, Mrs GROVE, Emily, Miss POVEY,
Cicely, Miss KELLY,

To-morrow, The Miller's Maid, I will have a Wife? & Presumption;